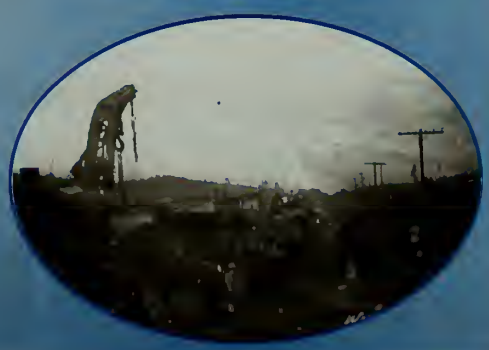
Otsego County Historical Society Presents...

Ghosts of the Past

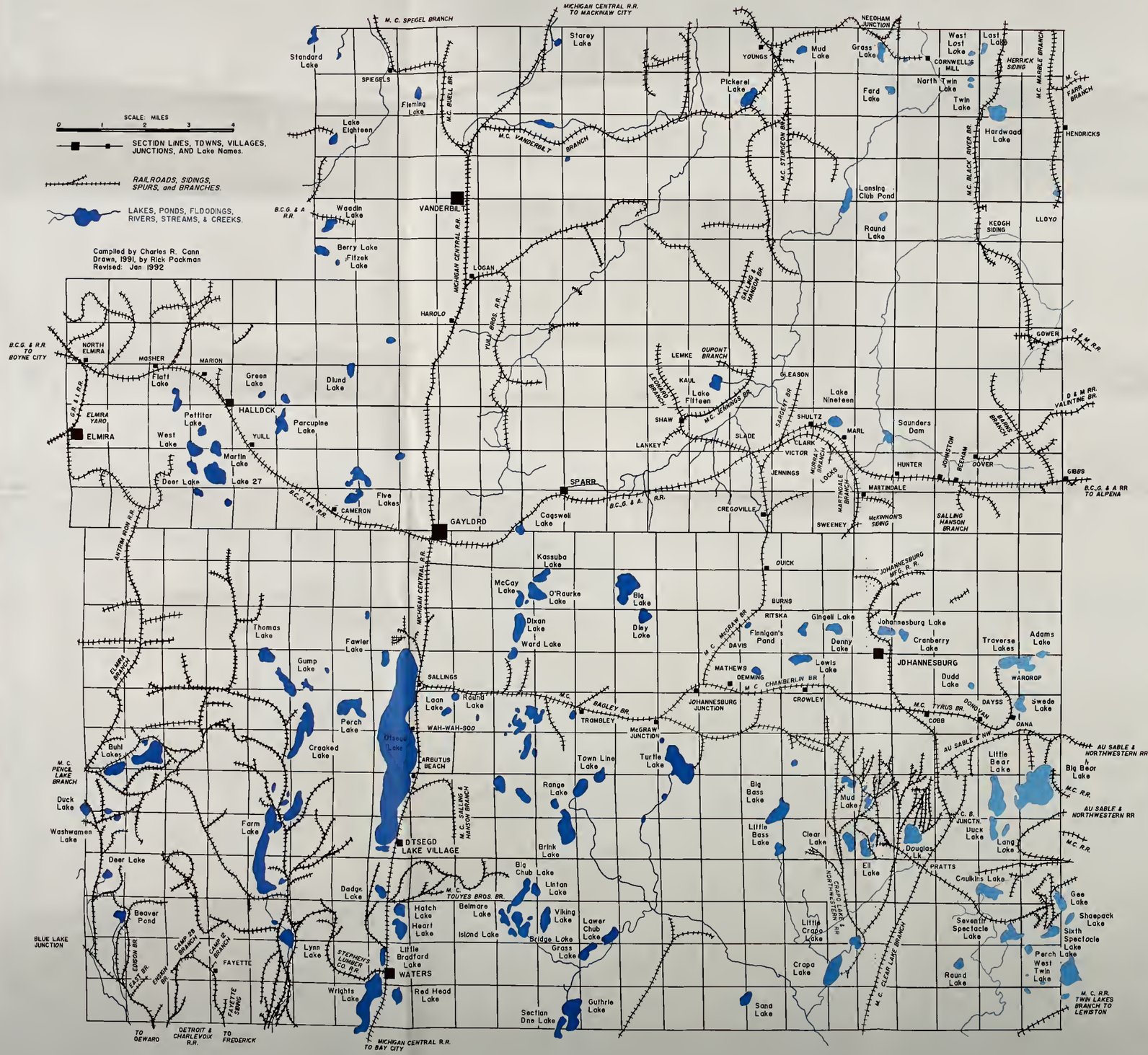
Railroads of Otsego County

Train Facts:

Gaylord was named after a man who worked for the railroad, Augustine Smith Gaylord. Although Gaylord never lived in the town that bore his name, his law firm, Gaylord and Hanchett of Saginaw, received a patent for 40 acres of land from the Federal Government dated March 20, 1874 to develop a town.



Ghosts of the Past - Railroads in Otsego County



Railroads in Otsego County

1. Antrim Iron Railroad
2. AuSable and Northwestern Railroad
3. Boyne City, Gaylord, and Alpena Railroad
4. Crapo Lake and Northwestern Railroad
5. Detroit and Mackinaw Railroad
6. Detroit and Charlevoix Railroad
7. Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad
8. Hanson Land Co.
9. Kneeland Biglow Co.
10. Michigan Central Railroad
11. Stphen Lumber Co.
12. Yuill Brothers Lumber Co.

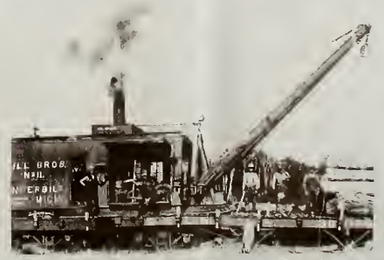
Elmira railroad yard GR&I

Train at Sparr BCG&A

Motor car at Gaylord BCG&A

Bridge East of Gaylord BCG&A

Tank engine at Waters Stephen



Steam loader at Vanderbilt Yuill Brothers

Station at Vanderbilt Michigan Central

Printing made possible thanks to: Charles R. Conn, and Central Printing Service, LLC. , Gaylord, MI.

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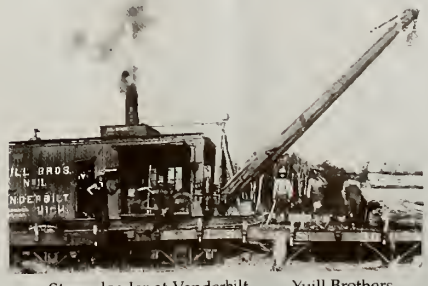

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Train Tidbits:

• The Railroad was extended from Otsego Lake Village to Gaylord in 1874 when one train a day arrived in Gaylord, carrying a baggage car, a passenger car, and two or three freight cars.

• In 1881 the extension of the tracks north from Gaylord to Mackinaw City was completed.

• The Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw reached Vanderbilt in 1881. The decision to route the tracks through Vanderbilt brought a quick demise to the near-by town of Berryville.

• The first train passed through Elmira about 1873. In 1910, it is said that as many as 100 trains passed through Elmira in a 24 hour period.

• A train didn't reach Johannesburg until after the turn of the century when the Johannesburg Manufacturing Company, which ran the town, built a spur onto the Michigan Central line.

• The Boyne City Railroad reached into the Sparr area in 1913.

-Compiled from the Otsego County Centennial Book